



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 3, 2005

News Release

UTA STUDENT DEPORTED TO INDIA FOR SOLICITING A MINOR

The 15-year-old girl he tried to seduce on the Internet turned out to be a policeman

DALLAS—A University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) foreign student who was convicted of Soliciting a Minor for Sexual Activity was deported Tuesday to India by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

Salman Shah-Malik, 27, was convicted in the 292nd Judicial District of Dallas Sept. 28 after he had many computer conversations with Garland and Arlington Police Department officers posing as a 15-year-old girl. The sexually explicit “instant messaging” computer discussions were used as evidence to show that Shah-Malik knew that soliciting an under-age girl for sex was illegal. He pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 10 years probation for his crime. However, as an alien and convicted aggravated felon he was placed into removal proceedings, and was deported Tuesday.



Garland and Arlington Police officers originally met Shah-Malik in a Dallas area computer “chatroom.” They provided detailed and sexually explicit transcripts of the computer discussions. The evidence against Shah-Malik also included recorded video from his web camera with him exposing his genitals and masturbating.

“Deporting criminal aliens is one of our highest priorities,” said Nuria Prendes, field office director for ICE Dallas Detention and Removal Operations. “Working together with the Garland and Arlington Police Departments, we were able to deport an alien who preyed on under-age girls. Using immigration laws to remove alien criminals from the country helps make us all a little safer.”

Shah-Malik first entered the United States in December 2000 on a student visa. In addition to attending UTA part-time, Shah-Malik also attended a local community college part-time, taking a total of 12 semester hours of classes.

Shah-Malik was taken into U.S. Border Patrol (part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection) custody Nov. 8 after reporting to the Tarrant County Probation Officer as a sex offender. Agents from the Euless Border Patrol Station processed Shah-Malik for removal as an aggravated felon. He was then turned over to ICE Detention and Removal.

This investigation, arrest and removal are part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect young people from human smugglers and traffickers, child pornographers and international child sex tourists. Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of intelligence, investigative, cyber, and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who prey on children. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, ICE has made more than 5,000 arrests nationwide, including 445 in Texas.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.